



December 2004

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225 601 Business Loop 70 W Columbia, MO 65203 www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman Fred Ferrell Julie Hurst Craig Westfall Barbara Wilson

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director Patty Dick, Administration Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans Bo Wendleton, Compliance Gerald Hrdina, Conservation Maurine Long, Price Support Max Sell, Production Flexibility

Customer Statement

December may bring visions of sugarplum fairies to some, but to others it brings visions of the end of the tax year. This year, producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little help in that they will be able to see their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement combines a wide range of information about a producer's USDA services and program activities in a single report that's available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If this sounds interesting, read on!

To view your Customer Statement you will need to get a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account (that is, a user ID and password). Here's how.

Use the Internet to get a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account:

- 1. From your Internet browser go to the USDA eAuthentication site at: http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/eauthCreateAccount.html.
- 2. Follow the steps described to request a Level 2 account.
 - Fill out the online registration form.
 - Create a user ID and password.
 - Respond to the confirmation e-mail the system sends to you.

Activation Process:

- 1. Bring your official identification (state ID, state driver's license, military ID or passport) to the FSA county office.
- 2. Ask to see a Local Registration Authority (LRA) a county office employee who can verify your identity and activate your USDA eAuthentication account.

Login to Your USDA Customer Statement: Use your Internet browser to locate the Customer Statement site at http://CustomerStatement.usda.gov.

- 1. Click the Login' button on the homepage menu bar.
- 2.Enter your USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account user ID and password on the USDA (security) login screen.
- 3.On your first visit to the Customer Statement, you will be assigned a unique USDA ID, and a default profile for your Customer Statement will be created. You may print out a page with your USDA ID from the Customer Statement on the left navigation menu.

Customer Statement Contents: The information in the statement is supplied by USDA agencies. The graphic of the Customer Statement shows the summary information initially presented when you login to the Customer Statement. It is a consolidation of all of your customer information.



Dates to Remember		
Dec. 31	New Year's Day observed. Federal holiday. FSA offices closed.	
Dec. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for honey.	
Jan. 17	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday. FSA offices closed.	
Jan. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for mohair, peanuts and wool.	
Feb. 21	Washington's Birthday. Federal holiday. FSA offices closed	
Mar. 15	Final application date for Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.	
Mar. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for small grains.	
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans	
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program	



If your payments do not show up when you first login, click on "Customer Statement" under "Statement Features" in the left column. Your payments should then appear.

By selecting links on the summary page, you can review the detail data and source information for each section. The links will take you to either another window within the Customer Statement that displays more information about an item in the summary, or it will take you to the application that supplied the section data for additional questions. In many cases, detail data opens in another browser window. Close the new window to return to Customer Statement.

Source links at the bottom of each section are provided to allow easy follow up with USDA personnel. If no contact information is provided, click the "Contact Us" tab or phone the county office.

Selected Interest Rates for December 2004		
90-Day Treasury Bill	1.750%	
Farm Operating - Direct	3.875%	
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%	
Limited Resource	5.000%	
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%	
Emergency	3.750%	
Farm Storage Facility	3.750%	
Sugar Storage Facility	4.625%	
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	3.375%	

To protect your identity, the Customer Statement does not show your Social Security number or Taxpayer ID. Instead, your information is linked to your USDA ID. Your USDA ID is created the first time you login. In the future, your USDA ID will enable you to share your Customer Statement information with anyone you choose without the risks associated with sharing your social security number or your USDA eAuthentication Level 2 user ID and password.

Animal Identification Program

You've probably heard something about the National Animal Identification System being developed by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. If you would like more information, stop by the FSA county office and pick up a copy of APHIS' brochure, The National Identification System (NAIS), Program Aid No. 1797.

Information about NAIS is also available online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/nais/nais.html.

Minority Producer Register

Minority producers can join a new voluntary register to ensure that they receive the latest farm program information from the Farm Service Agency.

By joining the register, minority producers may receive outreach materials, newsletters and program announcements from FSA and other USDA agencies. They may also receive information from USDA-approved outreach partners, such as community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and minority-serving educational institutions. USDA will control access to the register.

The register application is available at the county office or from approved USDA outreach partners.

Information is available on the Farm Service Agency's Web site at http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet, and at http://www.usda.gov/cr.

Annual Financial Statements

With the end of the year fast-approaching, now is a good time to take a look at your financial condition.

No matter how large or small your farming operation is, or whether you borrow money or not, it is a good idea to put together a financial statement every year on the same date. It is an excellent habit to get into.

Whether you decide to jot down what you own and what you owe while you are watching the ball drop in Times Square or at halftime of a bowl game does not matter.

The important thing is that you do it the same day every year. Usually this day is Jan. 1 or the beginning of your tax year. This way you can compare your financial condition from one year to the next from the same point in time.

Most agriculture lenders would love to have all of their borrowers get into this habit. This will enable your lender to compare "apples to apples" when reviewing your financial condition and will help them make better informed credit decisions.

Blank financial statements can be obtained from your lender or from FSA.

Maintaining Collateral Quality

This year's bumper grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Before giving in to the temptation to overfill storage bins, producers should think about the problems that can result.

Overfilling storage bins can result in spoiled grain. Bins are meant to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf or contact your local extension office.

Hybrid Seed Producers May Qualify for 2004 Crop LDPs

Some hybrid seed producers may now be eligible for 2004 crop Loan Deficiency Payments. A recent revision in policy applies to certain hybrid seed producers who were denied 2004 crop Loan Deficiency Payments or Marketing Assistance Loans. These producers were denied 2004 crop LDPs or Marketing Assistance Loans because of the loss of beneficial interest, due to an existing hybrid seed contract.

Under the revised policy, hybrid seed contracts do not affect beneficial interest determinations.

Beneficial interest in the commodity means the producer retains the ability to make decisions about the commodity, is responsible for loss or damage to the commodity, and has title to the commodity at the time of application. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan or LDP — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Beneficial interest in the seed is considered lost the earlier of date of delivery to the hybrid seed company or receipt for any payment of the seed.

Hybrid seed contract producers requesting Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payment must still meet all eligibility requirements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital orfamily status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employ er